The God of Jesus Christ

Scripture Lesson: Luke 15:1-10

Intro. There are as many Gods as there are groups of believers and individual believers.

We all worship the same God but not in the same way. We endeavor to interpret the same God but no two interpretations agree.

Presbyterians think of God one way and Methodists another, Baptists still another, etc.

The Pharisee had their set understanding of God and because the interpretation of God by Jesus was so radically different from theirs they immediately condemned him and defended their own God.

Jesus associating with sinners was too much for the Pharisees. Their God would'nt have anything to do with unclean people. They preferred to hold themselves aloof from unbelievers and sinners. Their God did the same thing.

We are not interested in the God of the Pharisees, for, afterall, their God is still the most common God among believers, today. Thousands of Xns have just such a God as did the Pharisees.

Our attention is drawn to the God of Jesus Christ. Let us study the divine attitude towards the children of earth, according to the parables we have ead.

I. God himself suffers loss in every child of His who departs from Him unto a life of selfishness and sin.

~~Like the shepherd searching for his lost sheep.~~

~~Like the woman lokking for the lost coin.~~

Like the mother who turns gray and furrowed over her wayward son.

God loves every sinner as much as He loves all that he calls his own.

The ~~ninty-nine just ones cannot compensate~~ God for the loss of the one.

God ~~cannot be satisfied until~~ the lost is saved.

And He ~~will do all in His power~~ to bring back the ~~wanderer, to redeem the sinner.~~

II. God cannot be compensated for the loss of any child of his by the possession and fellowship of the righteous ones.

Like the shepherd leaving the 99, the woman searching for the lost coin.

2. A million of other children of God who love Him and obey Him can take your place in the heart of God, however wayward and sinful you might be. God loves you, and until you are saved and living the life of righteousness, a life in God, the Heavenly Father sorrows in His heart and goes out in search of you.

III. The saving of the lost brings exceeding joy to all concerned.

"There shall be joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance."

We can understand the joy of God Himself over the saving of one sinner because God love that child of His with infinite yearning love. But why should all heaven rejoice over the repentance of one sinner?

All heaven represents all whose lives have turned unto God and have become one with Him in everything dear to life. God's joy is their joy, God's plans and purposes are theirs also.

What a wonderful privelege one has who, turning from the evil of his way, gives himself to God and causes the heart of the Heavenly Father to rejoice and the hearts of all who are in heaven likewise to rejoice withGod.

But aside from these personal interests, I think there is something inspiring to each one of us when a person abandons his selfishness and takes up with God.

Why did Dr.Harrison and many of the staid, conservative Presbyterians cry for joy when theywitnessed their people young and old go up to the altar in response to the appeal of Mrs.McPherson on behald of God and Christ?

Surely for the same reason that God himself and the agnels in heaven rejoiced. Yes, of course.

But to me there was a thrill in the scene because converts represented those who gave themselves to the in response to the appeal on their behalf, which was their opportunity. They got the real kick out of the meetings.

Many learn to play the piano, but only a few s eem to find the soul of music.

Many enter the professions, but only a few abandon themselves to their work and live only in the service of it.

Many go to our universities to gain an education, but a comparatively few find the real culture and in-